

HRCC Focus Team Conference Call Notes

March 28, 2011

3:00-4:30 pm EST

Call Participants:

In the Room:

Elizabeth Ban
Chris Hayes
Lauren Land
Gene Kim
Lisa Adams
Christa Rabenold
Sarah Abdelrahim
Leon Cammen
Heather Triezenberg
Frank Niepold

On the Phone:

Dennis Hwang
Monique Myers
LaDon Swann
Clayton McCoy
Gene Clark
Darren Lerner
Pat Corcoran
Joe Cone
Wendy Carey
Elizabeth LaPorte

Agenda Items

1. Introduction, Announcements, and Review Agenda
 - a. Leon Cammen addressed the Focus Team
 - i. The focus team's job is to keep track of everything happening in Sea Grant, keep track of the progress towards the strategic plan, and help the National Office figure out what to do differently to achieve national goals.
 - ii. The National Office appreciates the focus teams' willingness to volunteer their time and expertise because the National Office doesn't have all the expertise needed for the job. The Sea Grant Network has tons of people

with really good knowledge and skills. The National Office wants to find a way to tap into this knowledge through the focus teams.

- iii. The National Office has used what the focus teams generated last year to put together an annual progress report to identify highlights, gaps and areas that could use more attention. The National Office used items highlighted by the focus teams to communicate with NOAA, covering what Sea Grant does and what Sea Grant could do. For example, the National Office put together a social science initiative. The needs for the programs came from focus team suggestions, so keep up the good work!
- iv. The National Office is looking for high level, think-tank type ideas. We'll use the ideas the best that we can for reports, budget initiatives, NSIs, etc. Be proactive! You are on the focus team because you do have connections, and you talk to people in the field. Focus team members have the ability to look ahead, see what's coming, and meet the needs.
- v. Budget issues – we don't know what it's going to be for this year or the years to come. Sea Grant has to be nimble and efficient. It's important to think in terms of priorities. We don't know how much money will be available for focus team activities.

b. The Annual Progress Report has been released

- i. The Annual Progress Report is available online:

http://www.seagrant.noaa.gov/focus/documents/Focus%20Team%20Annual%20Progress%20Report_FINAL.pdf

c. New Members and Introductions

- i. Participants around the room and around the phone gave everyone their name and program affiliation.
- ii. New Members: Monique Myers (CA SG), Darren Lerner (HI SG), Elizabeth LaPorte (MI SG), Sarah Abdelrahim (NOAA's Climate Program Office), Frank Niepold (NOAA's Climate Program Office), and Christa Rabenold (NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management)

2. Updates from Other Offices and Activities:

a. OCRM (Christa Rabenold):

- i. Christa is a Coastal Hazards Management Specialist in OCRM. She works with state management programs on coastal hazards and climate change adaptation-related issues. Christa represents OCRM on a hazards forum internal and external to NOAA.
- ii. Christa is responsible for the climate change and hazards E-News Update that goes out every two months. She will add new people to the list. The update provides information about things that are going on with NOAA and other federal agencies. Information updates are mostly at the state level but sometimes what's happening at the local level is of interest.

- iii. Christa is involved with the planning of the Coastal Smart Growth Expert Panel that is happening in the summer. The expert panel will represent the intersecting communities of sustainable practices and hazards. The panel will come together and produce a report.
- b. CPO:
 - i. Updates on Regional Integrated Sciences Assessment (RISA) program and other activities (Sarah Abdelrahim):
 - 1. Consortium for Climate Risk in the Urban Northeast (CCRUN) is a new RISA in the Boston-Philadelphia corridor focusing on health and hazards.
 - 2. Southern Climate Impacts Planning Program (SCIPP) is a RISA in the South, developing and testing a new South Climate Impacts Support System. SCIPP will pull together data sources on hazards, hurricanes, drought, and floods. Users will be able to navigate to any region of interest and display clickable layers of information. The study will assess impacts of flooding and will be used to manage the Appalachian-Chattahoochee-Flint reservoir system.
 - 3. *Scanning the Horizon* guidebook produced by National Wildlife Federation and FWS is a guide for resource managers on how to conduct climate change vulnerability assessments. The whole thing is available online. Hard copies are available through Sarah or Adrienne Antoine. Next month, there will be a pilot workshop training for coastal habitat user groups to conduct vulnerability assessments. Maybe the training will be available online?
 - ii. Updates from Frank Niepold:
 - 1. FY11-FY17: climate change science capacity building of personnel at NOAA (includes Sea Grant and NERRS). All NOAA employees, engagement personnel (extension agents, outreach, communications, etc.), scientists, and resource managers are the target. More skill and training about climate change science is necessary for these professionals.
 - 2. National Conservation Training Center at FWS leading information on downscaling models. How can we be more efficient with models and how do we share this information on a consistent basis?
 - 3. Another priority is the climate portal - how do we build tools that facilitate a sharing of information?
- c. Coastal Resilience Index (LaDon Swann):
 - i. The CRI is a tool developed through an EPA grant in the Gulf of Mexico. It's a "train-the-trainer" project using 44 indicators to self-assess a

community and gauge resilience to hazards. Communication is included, but this tool is focused on hazards. The CRI is being adapted for the South Atlantic. NOAA Fisheries has a resilience index, but it's very different from what Sea Grant has. It would be useful to identify the differences between the indices. Sixteen communities have been exposed to the CRI tool.

- ii. Thoughts from LaDon related to CPO's Climate Change Science Capacity Building of NOAA personnel: Internal communication is very important to this focus team. We have to figure out how to communicate internally. Mini-grants funded to regional groups have a climate adaptation component. The Gulf of Mexico region set up a COP. One goal is inreach to engagement personnel. We have to figure out a way to communicate the information about climate. Climate is a cross-cutting theme/goal for hazards. We need to communicate it up to NOAA and down to the community level. There is an on-going discussion between Mike and LaDon about how to formalize this communication.

d. FEMA (Lauren Land):

- i. Sea Grant and OCRM have been meeting with FEMA's ESF 14 working group, which focuses on long-term community recovery after a disaster. We've been discussing steps to move towards a formalized partnership between NOAA and FEMA (at a level yet to be determined) to ensure that FEMA knows and has access to the services that Sea Grant extension agents have to offer after a disaster.

e. SC Rip Currents Assessment:

- i. Clayton McCoy: SC SG started the program 4 years ago and worked with local communities, fire and rescue, and NWS. For less than \$5000, we put out several hundred signs at beach access locations and did free PSAs via the local TV station. This year, we did a survey to tweak the model. We worked with Spencer Roger's group and worked with someone from CSC to design the survey. Results: pretty good in smaller locations where public beach access is the only way to the beach. At some of the resort areas (i.e. Myrtle beach), not quite as effective with the signs but most of the lifeguards are getting the message. Survey says: almost all the people came from over 100 miles away; only 6 people live in the oceanfront area; most people have come to the same beach every year for 10 years or so. They are working with organizations with similar purposes.
- ii. Lisa Adams: do you think your assessment could be tailored for other state programs or a national assessment?
- iii. Clayton McCoy: It could. We took it from North Carolina and modified it. We tailored it to our outreach methods as far as our control locations. We

wanted to evaluate the effectiveness of our signs. The assessment report includes results and survey in the appendix.

- iv. LaDon Swann: Rip currents have always been a universal hazards program. We haven't done a very good job at evaluating the impacts. A project idea with resources that we have through the focus team: if we continue to use rip currents as a hazards focus, someone is going to ask "so what?". What is the effectiveness of the program? We need to pursue an evaluation of rip currents to answer this question. The ultimate question is, how many lives does this program save?
 - v. Clayton McCoy: Since the signs were put up, there have been no drownings. Sign placing depends on where the crowds are. It's a tough way to go about evaluation, life vs. death.
 - vi. Heather Triezenberg: Thanks for sending along the assessment reports. This is a good example of doing intervention/education for communities. I shared with colleagues in NWS. They are looking for examples of how social science methods can better inform product formation. I'm happy to work with Clayton and LaDon to explore this idea and to increase understanding of the impacts of Sea Grant's work.
 - vii. Frank Niepold: In an evaluation workshop with weather service, overlap between NWS and Sea Grant is strong. Partnerships would be informed because the geographic areas are very large. How much beach can you cover?
 - viii. LaDon Swann: Orange Beach and Gulf Shores are the only beaches in Alabama, so you can narrow the coastline quite a bit. NWS has a lot of resources to evaluate.
3. Updates on 2010 HRCC Activities
- a. Coastal Processes Roundtable (Wendy Carey):
 - i. In mid-June last year, the focus team provided travel funds to get folks together in Wilmington NC, including Sea Grant climate folks. We discussed examples of coastal processes adaptation measures being used and being effective. We developed a list of coastal processes BMPs and model ordinances appropriate for climate adaptation. We were bringing together processes and hazards folks to work with the climate change group to discuss tools that were effective for climate adaptation. Eighteen people attended. The outcome: Pam Rubinoff and Lisa Adams created a spreadsheet summary of the tools that were mentioned and summarized. Currently, the group is working on a white paper to discuss how coastal processes and coastal hazard mitigation projects and adaptation techniques can be used by coasts. Kate Mosher from NC SG has reviewed it. Three

authors are looking at comments; they plan to have it finalized by mid-April to be reviewed by the coastal processes COP, then released.

- ii. Christa Rabenold: how is the spreadsheet being used?
- iii. Wendy Carey: Not sure how the spreadsheet will be used. The white paper used some outcomes of the roundtable discussion but not everything. We don't want to say the white paper is representative of the roundtable meeting because it can be used beyond that purpose. Spencer Rogers is working on something related to the roundtable.

b. Results of Hazards Community of Practice (COP) Survey (LaDon Swann and Wendy Carey):

- i. LaDon Swann: will send excel summary of results (50 responses to Sea Grant internal survey) to people
- ii. Wendy Carey: survey related to establishing a COP - idea came from HRCC focus team meeting 2 years ago in Mobile. The thought was, let's get folks in the Sea Grant network to self-identify their interests related to coastal processes, hazards, etc. Responses included a regulator, scientists, educator, people interested in social science, climate change on the coast, hazards education, an engineer, etc.. LaDon and others worked on developing the survey. Most responses were within the Sea Grant network - 56 people. At the bottom of the survey, there were questions for the best way to communicate: NING site vs. social networking site vs. listserv? Wendy can start a listserv at UDel; she is waiting to communicate as far as the next step to establish a communication network.
- iii. LaDon Swann: Pull the trigger on communication after HRCC members review the spreadsheet. Fifty-six responses is respectable for a non-traditional focus team (i.e. not fisheries). A NING or a listserv would be useful. Storm Smart Connect? Snail mail still works too.
- iv. Wendy Carey: We can always start with a listserv and expand later. One purpose of the COP is to improve communication for submitting joint proposals.

c. National Climate Effects Survey (Joe Cone):

- i. The genesis was a year ago. A survey was sent to Sea Grant folks to determine interest in climate change. The goal was to develop a survey on a state basis that would give a national assessment of interest in climate change. The hazards team gave funding last fall to develop questions and protocols for the survey. Nineteen members of the network have been helping develop the survey that is in mind. The survey has gone through a number of iterations. It's nearly done. There are 20 questions that the core group is ready to return to the larger group of 19. The design included space in the survey so individual states could ask questions of interest in

case national questions didn't cover them. The target is coastal managers and elected officials. The survey will be implemented online on a rolling basis sometime this spring into the summer. The survey is related to climate adaptation and will provide a snapshot view of managers and officials that we don't currently have. There are not really any useful surveys of coastal managers and decision makers. Surveys from CA and OR have been used as the model.

- ii. LaDon Swann: This is related to the COP. An immediate survey of decision makers and where they are with climate adaptation; we're not there yet. We want to use the survey in the Gulf of Mexico, but it's not available yet; when will it be?
- iii. Joe Cone: in a couple of weeks. We need to be careful with the language.
- iv. LaDon Swann: Directors in the Gulf and climate engagement people would be interested. We want to use it but where will it fall in the sequence of what's going on already?
- v. Frank Niepold: USGCRP is pushing climate adaptation. USGS, CEQ, NOAA have task forces on adaptation. Interested on briefing Laura Petes from CPO?
- vi. Joe Cone: interested on gathering actionable information from Sea Grant extension agents, so right from the community. This won't be the last word in adaptation survey planning but hopefully it will be immediately valuable to the Sea Grant practitioners.
- vii. Frank Niepold: we're flying blind a lot so any additional information available will be useful.
- viii. LaDon Swann: saw a version of NOAA's Climate Adaptation team. Mike Liffmann is the Sea Grant liaison to the NOAA team.

4. Goals for HRCC Team

a. Tsunami Activities and Sea Grant's Role

- i. Pat Corcoran: Japan quake is finally the teachable moment. People are finally getting the message. We need to communicate the Sea Grant perspective. In the past with the media, they go straight to the physical scientists to get information about the physical metrics of the quake, then to the modelers, then to the engineers for the solution. There is no story on preparedness and communications. This is the perfect situation for Sea Grant, hugely appropriate for a SG type of role, and a hugely accelerated push for developing a "so what" for Sea Grant.
- ii. Darren Lerner: Dennis has been doing workshops recently in a related area.
- iii. Dennis Hwang: involved with *Homeowners Handbook to Prepare for Natural Hazards*. The goal is to educate homeowners, not necessarily on

the coastline, with regard to preparation for all different hazards. Dennis will be updating the book hopefully by hurricane season this year. Dennis will be meeting with the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center in a few days. Dennis is adding material for evacuation planning for tsunamis and hurricanes to the handbook. It's important for people to think about. Dennis is talking with the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center specifically about new definitions regarding tsunami advisories and additional information about different tsunami evacuation scenarios. Hawaii issued a tsunami warning last year related to Chile and then this year with Japan. Later, we'll update some other publications related to tsunami design.

- iv. Darren Lerner: HI Sea Grant continues to fund Cheung who develops tsunami run-up models for Hawaii and the Pacific. The models have been used in US and other areas (i.e. Chile) to predict 100-year events up to 500- year events. As of last fall, Sea Grant and NOAA Coastal Storms Program with Dolan Eversole have been doing activities in Pacific and Hawaii. They are awaiting budget decisions to go ahead on RFPs for this year and next year to engage stakeholders in Hawaii.
 - v. Dennis Hwang: Hawaii's civil defense has agreed to print another round of the handbooks and conduct outreach around the state.
 - vi. Elizabeth Ban: On 3/11/11, Elizabeth looked at how many people in the Pacific region have information on tsunami awareness and preparedness. Sea Grant has a lot! By May 4th, she needs to get together a story for NOAA OAR's news page. She will get in touch with NOAA communicators to gather information, but it would be nice to have some people help with ideas to message this and communicate it - both research and extension and other partnerships.
 - vii. Pat Corcoran: dangerous to overstate. The reporting needs to reflect reality.
 - viii. Elizabeth Ban: Joe Cone is also interested - potentially a brown bag seminar?
 - ix. Elizabeth LaPorte: is there a way to frame this? Extreme storms instead of tsunamis? Extreme storms are a great way to introduce the greater world of hazards. She is interested in hazard preparedness in regards to how it can be applied in Great Lakes region.
 - x. LaDon Swann: is anyone opposed to having their e-mail address listed on the webpage?
- b. "Shovel-ready" Ideas for Proposals:
- i. Hazards Education (Elizabeth LaPorte): MI Sea Grant is using social science to spread messages, especially about rip currents, and they are using money to study the social science. The focus is on state parks

interpreters and operators to do “train-the-trainer” but also to fund a researcher at a university to target key audiences (i.e. young males, parents) most at risk based on deaths (25 last year in Michigan). She’s not sure of funding through the CZM program and state of Michigan.

- ii. LaDon Swann: We need to send out a network wide call for projects and then use the team to narrow down the topics. We have to be transparent.
 - iii. Elizabeth LaPorte: What types of projects are a priority?
 - iv. LaDon Swann: Send out an e-mail to the Network maybe?
 - v. Lisa Adams: short turnaround time for the budget. We had a conference call with HRCC for ideas to use the money.
 - vi. LaDon Swann: We don’t have to wait until we have a budget to do a request. We don’t have to have the dollars in hand. We need to get input from the team on what the priorities are. We need to go beyond just looking for projects. If people have good ideas for projects, they should be encouraged to submit those.
 - vii. Lisa Adams: Be clear with Leon to make sure that the ideas request is clear.
 - viii. Elizabeth LaPorte: Having some guidance would be helpful.
- c. Next Conference Call – in about 2 months (so end of May)
- i. Dennis Hwang: Would it be a possibility to have a FEMA member on the focus team?
 - ii. Leon Cammen: We are working on developing relationships with FEMA.
 - iii. Lisa Adams: Last year at the Annual Meeting, we talked about including focus team members from other federal agencies.